

St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School

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Headteacher: Mr Liam Daniels BA (QTS) Geog (Hons) NPQH

20th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Once again, I thank you for your patience.

Today has been another busy day for us trying to find out lots of information and put in place systems for next week. This is a difficult process as we are trying to ascertain who will be with us come Monday, based on the 'Key Worker' list which was released earlier.

One of the main points from the information released was that "*Many parents working in these critical sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be. This is an offer to parents and carers and there is no requirement for parents and carers to send their children to school if they do not need or wish to do so.*"

If social distancing has been proven to slow the spread of the virus then I ask you all to be sensible in your request. We have to learn from other places. Italy closed schools but socialising/meeting up went ahead unchanged. This led to their current situation.

So, I ask you as responsible people to **only** request a place if you have **no other means of childcare** and your work is classed as **essential** for the business continuity of your workplace, and you **cannot** keep your child safe at home.

The more pupils we have in school, the higher the risk to everyone.

These are difficult times and I know we have your support as we try to make sense of this situation.

Our Breakfast Club is open on Monday for pupils who are attending school if it is required. However, we are not able to offer after school provision, so we would expect children to be collected at the usual time.

In terms of free school meals, we are currently awaiting further clarification from Sefton Catering Services on what exactly they can provide. Weekly food parcels for children and vouchers have been spoken about, but these have not yet been implemented. Therefore, for the moment, we will be offering a packed lunch for each child who is entitled to a free school meal. This may not be ideal for everyone, but at this present time, it is the best that we can offer. If things change when other methods are available, we will be in touch. We do not want any child who is entitled to a free school meal to miss out.

I therefore ask that any parent/carer whose child(ren) are entitled to a free school meal (this only applies to parents who have applied for a free school meal- not all infant

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children) to contact school before 9.30am on Monday to request them. These will be made up on the premises and will be available to collect from school at 12 o'clock.

This is a sad day for all staff and pupils and we obviously wish we were not in this situation. We have tried to have a fun time with the children today and hopefully they will come home saying that they have enjoyed their day in school! We obviously do not know how long the current arrangements will be in place for, but we will be in touch regularly, and if you need us, please get in touch and we will try to help.

You are all in our thoughts and prayers and we wish you well.

Take care, from Mr Daniels and all staff at St Elizabeth's.

Liam Daniels

Mr L Daniels
Headteacher

